

VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CONNECTICUT HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AND EXCHANGE
MARK RAYMOND, CHAIRPERSON

OCTOBER 1, 2013

101 EAST RIVER DRIVE
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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HEARING RE: CT HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & EXCHANGE
OCTOBER 1, 2013

1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a meeting in
2 the matter of Connecticut Health Information Technology
3 and Exchange, held at 101 East River Drive, East
4 Hartford, Connecticut on October 1, 2013 at 4:34 P.M. . .

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8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MARK RAYMOND: Okay, so
9 I would like to call the meeting to order for the Health
10 Information Technology Exchange for HITE-CT on October 1,
11 2013. This is Mark Raymond. Thank you all for coming on
12 the day that we've launched our health insurance
13 exchange; so far so good. I'm happy that we're making
14 progress.

15 At this point on the agenda, I would like
16 to turn our attention to the meeting minutes from the
17 September 3rd meeting. Those were sent out prior to this
18 meeting, and I'd like to see if anyone has any questions
19 or feedback about the minutes. Oh, yeah? Go ahead.

20 MALE VOICE: I don't have any questions at
21 this time.

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. So if
23 I'm not hearing any, I'd entertain a motion to approve
24 the minutes.

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1 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: So moved.

2 Commissioner Bremby? Do I hear a second?

3 MR. DEMIAN FONTANELLA: Second.

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: You're now a
5 voting member?

6 MR. FONTANELLA: No, I'm not.

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Probably need
8 a second from someone on the phone because there's only
9 two members here who --

10 MR. DANIEL CARMODY: Okay, I can second it.

11 MS. KRAUS: Who seconds it?

12 MR. CARMODY: Dan Carmody.

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay? So, all
14 in favor of approving the minutes say "Aye."

15 VOICES: Aye.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any opposed?
17 Okay, the minutes are approved.

18 The next item on our agenda is the HITE-CT
19 board business, and we have our treasurer's report. At
20 this time I'd like to turn over to Christine Kraus for an
21 update on the treasurer's report.

22 MS. CHRISTINE KRAUS: Good afternoon
23 everybody. We have, let's see, no new revenue if you're
24 looking at the revenue and expense report. We have total

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1 expenses to date from July 1, 2013 of \$129,804.91.

2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: May I see that

3 --

4 MS. KRAUS: Sure.

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Who just
6 joined?

7 MS. KAREN BUFFKIN: Karen Buffkin.

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: All right.

9 Great. Thank you Karen. We're on the treasurer's report.

10 MS. KRAUS: If you refer to the balance
11 sheet, we have in our bank account \$259,378.73. Given
12 that today is just October 1st, our bank statement has
13 not been reconciled yet. Our total liabilities are
14 \$2,609,652.22 giving us a net income of a negative
15 \$129,804.91.

16 Let's see, if you go to unpaid bills, it's
17 the same as last time; it's about \$2.6 million in Axway
18 bills. And, if you go to the cash flow projection to
19 September, our expenses for the month were \$49,847.03.
20 Any questions?

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: So these are a
22 little higher than what we were expecting --

23 MS. KRAUS: Ah, what happened is we had
24 higher accounting bills because we were preparing for the

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1 audit, so we have both accounting firms, one that is
2 doing the audit and the other one that is doing the prep
3 for the audit.

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Are
5 there any other questions about the financial reports?
6 Chris, before you leave, there was a question about the
7 year-one and year-two finances and approval from DPH for
8 our submitted federal finances.

9 MS. KRAUS: Right. So year one, we reported
10 had already been approved. Year two, I wrote a note to
11 our accountant. He is working with Chuma at the DPH and
12 there was just one transaction that they were working
13 through, and I have not heard yet on the final result. I
14 sent an email yesterday and today; we're still waiting to
15 hear.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay.

17 MS. KRAUS: So once I hear I can send the
18 board a note. It should be any day.

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. And are
20 those -- are the questions substantively related to
21 anything we're seeing in the revenue and expenses?

22 MS. KRAUS: No. Because this is year three.

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Are
24 there any other questions? Okay. If I'm not hearing any,

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1 I entertain a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

2 MR. CARMODY: So moved.

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: I'll second
4 that.

5 MS. KRAUS: Is that Dan?

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: That was Dan
7 Carmody. All in favor signify "Aye."

8 VOICES: Aye. Aye.

9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any opposed?
10 The treasurer's report has passed and can be included as
11 approved. At this point on the agenda, I would - it's a
12 move to the executive session pursuant to Connecticut
13 General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) in regards to our
14 strategy and negotiations around the Axway contract. So
15 at this point I would like to invite those members who
16 are not on the board Ellen Andrews, Karen Buffkin,
17 Barbara Parks-Wolf - -

18 MS. BARBARA PARKS-WOLF: No, I'm on.

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Joan Soulsby,
20 Vanessa Kapral, Dr. Tikoo, Christine Kraus, John
21 DeStefano, Kevin McEleney-- I think that's everyone.

22 MR. BRUCE CHUDWICK: And may I join you Mr.
23 Chairman?

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Oh yes, as our

7

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1 counsel you are allowed --

2 So, I'd like to entertain a motion to move
3 to executive session.

4 MS. ANGELA MATTIE: So moved.

5 MS. KRAUS: Who was that?

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Angela, thank
7 you. I'll second that. All in favor?

8 VOICES: Aye. Aye.

9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Any
10 opposed? All right, we are in executive session.

11 (Whereupon, meeting went into executive
12 session.)

13
14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay, we are
15 back from executive session and my clock says 4:51.

16 The next item on the agenda is HITE-CT
17 agency business and for our CT CTO report I will turn it
18 over to John DeStefano.

19 MR. JOHN DeSTEFANO: Thanks Mark. Not
20 much to report, just to keep the -- to get this in the
21 minutes actually -- the letter DPH sent us requesting a
22 refund was followed up by another letter from DPH not
23 requesting a refund. So, as was put there last meeting
24 to try to resolve the issue further with DPH we have

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1 resolved it temporarily pending further meetings with ONC
2 to figure out where we are going.

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Just for the
4 sake of clarity, the letter you said not asking for it --
5 it basically countermanded their request -- it wasn't
6 silent on it.

7 MR. DeSTEFANO: Correct.

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. DeSTEFANO: One other item -- and this
11 is a bit strange to phrase it this way but in all
12 likelihood I will be resigning from HITE-CT. It's not
13 definite yet, but within the next week or so I have to
14 make that decision. So ending that, before -- it will
15 probably happen before our next board meeting -- so I
16 would ask the board that if that does happen that we have
17 some contingency in place to bring in, you know, if
18 required, another manager basically to execute whatever
19 is going on here at HITE-CT.

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: I think we
21 should pursue a couple of different avenues on this.
22 One, should that actually go through John, we'll truly
23 miss you and your contribution. I think what I would ask
24 of the board -- and I will reach out to the other board

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1 members as well to ask for two things -- and one is, is
2 there a contribution of an executive who can be loaned to
3 HITE-CT to play in this role for some period of time
4 until we have a sustainability plan worked out? Or two,
5 that we do move forward as John was suggesting that the
6 ability to bring in someone on a temporary basis to help
7 continue to move the program forward. So I would pose
8 that for your consideration and ask if there are any
9 other suggestions that the board might have before we --
10 on other ways forward before we move on that.

11 MR. CARMODY: I would echo your comment on
12 John. I think that we appreciate all of the service that
13 you provided to us and, you know, wish you well if that's
14 the situation. And I would agree with you, Commissioner.
15 I think we really need to determine and decide, you know,
16 what are our next steps and what is the direction of
17 where we are going to take HITE-CT and once we've settled
18 our other affairs, what do we think -- what is our
19 ongoing relationship as far as our end goals? And then
20 make a decision off of that to figure out what does that
21 mean as to how actively we pursue or not pursue trying to
22 bring somebody else on.

23 MS. KRAUS: And who was that speaking?

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: That was Dan

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1 Carmody. Thank you, Dan.

2 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: There's one other
3 option that you might want to think through is whether
4 there is an entity that might be able to pick up some
5 functionality as a marginal cost of what they are
6 currently doing in their basic line of business. I
7 suspect that the finances that we currently have would
8 preclude having someone to actually replace the executive
9 director. But -- I don't want to get too personal but
10 the timeline is two weeks?

11 MR. DeSTEFANO: I expect to make a
12 decision within two weeks but I would give at least
13 another -- I'm thinking sometime around the beginning of
14 November -- between the first of November and the middle
15 of November.

16 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: Okay. So the loaned
17 executive option is also someone that has some interest I
18 think.

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any other
20 discussion around -

21 MS. KRAUS: Could they hear?

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: I'm sorry?

23 MS. KRAUS: Could they hear on the phone?

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Probably -

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1 MS. KRAUS: Oh, there's a mic there.

2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Commissioner
3 Bremby - actually you could hear that - Commissioner
4 Bremby first stated he was stunned, but second was asking
5 about whether or not -- what the timeline looked like,
6 and I think you heard John describe that, and also what
7 the - whether or not financially we would have the
8 flexibility to bring someone in, or whether we should
9 pursue - whether there was some other party that had a
10 similarly enough line of business that they were in that
11 they might be able to pick up some of the
12 responsibilities without truly large incremental cost. Is
13 that an okay summary, Commissioner?

14 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: Thank you.

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any other
16 thoughts or discussions on this -- on the matter? So I
17 would like to propose that in the event that our CTO does
18 leave that the board authorizes the ability to refill
19 that within our budget, as long as it's consistent with
20 our sustainability approach. And I will -- I guess this
21 is probably out of order -- but I want to talk about a
22 sustainability approach next, so I suggest that we move
23 on to other business and not entertain a motion on that
24 and we'll discuss sustainability first and then circle

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1 back around to that. Thank you John.

2 MR. DeSTEFANO: You're welcome.

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: The next item
4 on the agenda is other business, and I was just
5 describing one item that I would like to discuss amongst
6 the board is the creation of a sustainability work group.
7 I believe that we are at an inflection point in terms of
8 what we are going to accomplish as part of this
9 organization. I think the board membership has been with
10 this long enough that they have a good feedback -- a good
11 perspective on what we can and should be able to bring to
12 the goals of improving our ability to exchange health
13 information within the state. I believe that there's
14 others that may be part and parcel of that work group as
15 well. So I would suggest that we create one, and I am
16 happy to participate in that work group, and create it
17 and call it in short order to make a recommendation from
18 HITE-CT in regard to the sustainability plan for health
19 information exchange in the state of Connecticut.

20 I'll entertain some discussion on that
21 topic and see if people think that's worthwhile at this
22 point in our juncture.

23 Welcome Steve.

24 MR. STEVEN THORNQUIST: Thank you.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Did you catch
2 that on the way in?

3 MR. THORNQUIST: Not quite.

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. I was -
5 we're in the other business portion of the agenda and I
6 was suggesting the formation of a sustainability work
7 group associated with HITE-CT to -- the last time that we
8 looked at the sustainability plan was under a different
9 model. I think that we need to refresh that and ask
10 ourselves some hard questions about the sustainability
11 and the ability to meet some of the long-term goals of
12 health information exchange, and how we would recommend
13 that best be done. So, I was recommending a work group
14 set up to look at that topic, and suggesting that it need
15 to be done in relatively short order given everything
16 else that we have in front of us.

17 Just before you -- by way of context --
18 just before you joined, John DeStefano mentioned that he
19 is very likely going to be resigning and pursuing another
20 position at some point in November, and so one of the
21 things that the sustainability group might need to
22 address is filling that role on an interim basis to get
23 us through this process, or making other recommendations
24 associated with that, so, just to catch you up.

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1 MALE VOICE: So, it seems like if we are
2 going to sustain --

3 MR. CARMODY: This is Dan. What I would
4 suggest that, instead of creating an entirely new
5 subcommittee, I mean maybe this just gets referred to the
6 executive committee for some input on the next steps, let
7 it be battled around there, I mean I think you have
8 representation a lot of the subcommittee leads and we can
9 -- from out from the executive committee we could if
10 there needs to be a creation of another group, great,
11 otherwise let's see what the executive committee brings
12 to the table.

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Other thoughts
14 on that?

15 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: I think you're right.
16 I think it needs to be done quickly. I think it needs to
17 be done. If the executive committee wants to take that
18 on, that's fine with me.

19 MS. KRAUS: Just a note, Mark, that the
20 executive committee has shriveled, so I don't know if you
21 want to invite Commissioner Bremby like you have before,
22 but Mark is no longer an active member since his
23 expiration date yesterday.

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: So can you,

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1 Chris, find out who is currently on the executive
2 committee?

3 MS. KRAUS: Um, so it would be Dan Carmody,
4 Kevin Carr, you, I think that's it.

5 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: I'd be willing to
6 join if invited.

7 MR. CARMODY: Didn't we have a bunch of
8 folks on the executive committee?

9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: We did. We've
10 have several people's terms expire and other folks
11 resign.

12 KEVIN CARR: So Dan, when do you want to
13 have lunch?

14 MR. CARMODY: Excellent.

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Can we - just
16 by force of order, is it - how is the executive committee
17 made up? By invitation of the chair? Or --

18 MS. KRAUS: I thought it was the heads of
19 each of the committees.

20 MR. CARMODY: -- various subcommittee
21 members. The leads on the various subcommittees, they
22 were the ones who comprised a good portion of the
23 executive committee.

24 MALE VOICE: Okay.

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1 MALE VOICE: And the chair and vice chair -
2 -

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. But we
4 don't currently have a vice chair.

5 MALE VOICE: It seems our table has gotten
6 smaller.

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Yes, the table
8 has gotten smaller.

9 MALE VOICE: Seems to happen when money
10 goes away.

11 MALE VOICE: Yeah.

12 MR. CARMODY: We really have to talk about
13 where do we want to head? We -- what is realistically
14 available to us as far as the services, I mean when we
15 started this, you know, project off, or started this
16 effort off, it was, we had a handful of core assets that
17 we were going to be able make available to the
18 marketplace.

19 Long story short, the marketplace when we
20 looked at those core assets, now we don't really have any
21 customer base or client base that is calling for those
22 assets to be enabled. So that was going to create the
23 sustainability, so then the question that I would have
24 is, how does the state look at the assets that we have or

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1 we will retain after we resolve some of our outstanding
2 issues with some of our vendors, and how does that fit in
3 to that overarching architecture? At this point if we
4 don't have a major grouping to handle that which was
5 basically for all intents and purposes the hospital
6 system, if the hospital systems don't see us as wanting
7 to come and shop at our doorstep, where are we looking to
8 take these assets and enable them within state
9 architecture? And if not, then I guess we have to look at
10 ourselves and say, "We don't have a sustainability model.
11 We don't have a client base, and we're not getting
12 contributions from the state that fund what we needed of
13 these assets and incorporated into a state architecture."
14 Unfortunately, I think it's time to talk about you unwind
15 where we're at.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: I think that's
17 a really good summary, Dan. I'll add one point to that.
18 In conversations with the Office of the National
19 Coordinator around the SIM Grant that the state is
20 pursuing, one of the points that they continue to make is
21 that ongoing federal expenditure investment in health
22 information technologies is still going to continue to
23 happen, but it was going to be done much more closely
24 aligned to the existing expenditures associated with

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1 Medicare and Medicaid. So they didn't really see
2 themselves as providing additional funds specifically for
3 the purposes of health information exchange, but that
4 they did see themselves in a role of providing additional
5 funding and continued funding for health information
6 exchange related to Medicare and Medicaid, but would
7 encourage broader use of those investments where they
8 made sense.

9 So, changing our sustainability for HITE-
10 CT is it sort of reflects the marketplace and the
11 continued realities in terms of where finances are going
12 to come from in the future, and how we would be able to
13 sustain I think is critical.

14 I'm fine with the suggestion of sticking
15 this with the executive committee and I'm not quite sure
16 procedurally how we might change the executive committee.
17 So --

18 MALE VOICE: As it's constituted, I mean
19 you have four members that are willing to serve: Kevin,
20 Dan, yourself, and Mr. Bremby?

21 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: Or I'll just crash
22 the lunch.

23 MR. CARMODY: The good thing is that the
24 chair gets the names of the people around the various

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1 subcommittees, I think, so I think you just go eeny meeny
2 miney mo and the person standing calls the meeting and
3 that's, you know, we can move it around.

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Um -

5 MR. CARMODY: I think that's what the
6 bylaws are; I think the chair is the one that names
7 people to the committee.

8 MR. BRUCE CHUDWICK: It's been quite a
9 while since we've done that, so, but that's fine; Dan's
10 right.

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Um -

12 MR. CHUDWICK: You just have to obtain a
13 motion, really, if you want to do a motion to authorize a
14 committee consisting of those four individuals to develop
15 a sustainability plan and report back on progress at the
16 next board meeting.

17 MR. THORNQUIST: So moved.

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. Did
19 folks on the phone hear Bruce's outline?

20 MS. MATTIE: Yes, we did. I agree with it.
21 It sounds like a pretty reasonable plan.

22 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: Sounds like a second.

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Would we take
24 that as a second, Angela?

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1 MS. MATTIE: I second it, yes, thank you.

2 MR. CARMODY: Is that a second or an
3 acceptance to be on the executive committee?

4 MS. MATTIE: Stick with the second.

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Okay. All in
6 favor of that motion signify with an "Aye."

7 VOICES: Aye. Aye. Aye.

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any opposed?
9 Okay, so that motion passed. I believe that we can table
10 the discussion of a replacement until that group meets
11 and perhaps until the subsequent board meeting.

12 COMMISSIONER BREMBY: That would make sense
13 given that if you're not sustaining there's no reason to
14 hire a replacement. However, if he's gone effective of
15 November, this is the October meeting. That means in
16 November is our next meeting.

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Yes, next
18 meeting is November 5, so the opportunity for knowledge
19 transfer should we decide to refill in a way that would
20 cost HITE money, that would be difficult given the next
21 board meeting. So, what we -- we could call for a board
22 action, just a quick call if it turns out that that's
23 something that we do need to do, and I would indulge your
24 flexibilities in an emergency session to answer that

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1 question if needed.

2 Are there any other items for open
3 business? Yes, Chris? Just a moment.

4 MS. KRAUS: I will be sending out the in-
5 kind statements in the next day or two. They are due
6 toward the end of the month. So if you could review,
7 sign, and return them to me as soon as possible, that
8 would be great. There was also a question last board
9 meeting about whether or not the D&O insurance policy was
10 retroactive. I do want to confirm that it's in effect as
11 of July 19, which was the expiration date from last year,
12 so we're all covered.

13 Thirdly, with regard to our audit, we are
14 progressing. The auditors are coming to HITE-CT on
15 Thursday and Friday to do transactional testing, checking
16 invoices, things like that, so our accountants have
17 prepared the fiscal reports for them, so we are well on
18 our way.

19 And then lastly, as Mark mentioned we do
20 have three people whose board membership has expired, so
21 I've reached out to them to check on their interest for
22 re-appointment, and we'll need to contact the
23 legislators. That's it.

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Thank you,

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1 Chris. Any other items for other business? Okay. At this
2 point on the agenda, we are open for public comment. Do I
3 hear any public comment? Seeing none, I would entertain a
4 motion to bring this meeting to a close.

5 MR. CARMODY: I can do that.

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Motion made by
7 Dan. Seconded by Angela. All in favor of adjourning the
8 meeting for today signify with "Aye."

9 VOICES: Aye. Aye.

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RAYMOND: Any opposed?
11 All right; we are adjourned. Thank you for your time.

12 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
13 5:15 p.m.)